

August 8, 2016

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

The Federal Communications Commission's (Commission) Mobility Fund was designed to increase wireless voice and broadband coverage to rural areas throughout America. In 2012 the FCC moved forward with Phase I of its Mobility Fund, awarding \$300 million to wireless carriers so that they would provide 3G and LTE Service in areas that do not currently have such coverage. We write to urge the Commission to adopt rules and implement Phase II of the Mobility Fund, which should be focused on expanding access to 4G LTE service. If designed right, this program will enable more rural Americans to gain access to 4G LTE wireless voice and broadband services.

Earlier this year, you noted that the urban-rural divide concerning broadband access remains "significant" in our country. Unfortunately, this is a reality for many of our constituents.

Several residents in Missouri, especially those living in rural areas, have struggled to gain access to adequate wireless voice and broadband service. As you and your colleagues have acknowledged, lack of broadband access prevents communities from thriving in today's world. Folks in these communities do not have the same opportunities to attain important information relating to new job prospects, education, public safety and healthcare options.

Mobility Fund Phase I was a limited first step to expand 3G and 4G mobile wireless networks to underserved areas using incentive-based and market driven policies. The Commission should build on those policies while making appropriate adjustments to the design of Mobility Fund Phase II so that it benefits as many rural Americans as possible who currently lack access to 4G LTE service.

Along with relieving wireless carriers of regulatory burdens that discourage private sector investment in rural areas, this auction is one of the most important steps the Commission can take **this year** to promote wireless voice and broadband coverage in the rural areas of Missouri. It is critical that the Commission proceed as quickly as possible with the Mobility Fund Phase II reverse auction targeted at expanding such services.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to hearing from you concerning the status of this auction.

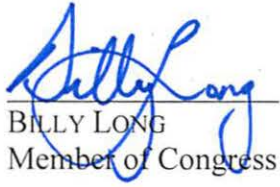
Sincerely,



JASON SMITH
Member of Congress



BLAINE LEUTKEMEYER
Member of Congress



BILLY LONG
Member of Congress



VICKY HARTZLER
Member of Congress



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 14, 2016

The Honorable Vicky Hartzler
U.S. House of Representatives
2235 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Hartzler:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of mobile broadband networks to rural Missouri, as well as your views regarding the opportunity that a Mobility Fund Phase II may provide to improve rural mobile coverage.

Americans rely more and more on mobile broadband service. As providers roll-out more robust wireless networks, they are providing greater broadband speeds, efficiency, capacity, and a wealth of innovative features. The Commission is committed to ensuring that Americans living, working, and travelling in rural areas have access to these mobile broadband networks that are increasingly essential for full participation in today's society and economy.

The Commission will move forward with rules for Mobility Fund Phase II by the end of this year. Our recently completed analysis of Form 477 data shows that there are significant gaps in 4G LTE coverage throughout the country that need to be addressed through Mobility Fund Phase II. The primary focus of Mobility Fund Phase II will be targeting our necessarily limited universal service funds to promote 4G LTE service in areas where it might not otherwise be expanded or sustained without federal support. With that goal in mind, the Commission is working to address the key structural and operational issues for a Phase II fund, including the appropriate budget, eligible geographic areas, proper distribution methodology, and the public interest obligations of support recipients.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Tom Wheeler", is written over a horizontal line.

Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 14, 2016

The Honorable Billy Long
U.S. House of Representatives
1541 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Long:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of mobile broadband networks to rural Missouri, as well as your views regarding the opportunity that a Mobility Fund Phase II may provide to improve rural mobile coverage.

Americans rely more and more on mobile broadband service. As providers roll-out more robust wireless networks, they are providing greater broadband speeds, efficiency, capacity, and a wealth of innovative features. The Commission is committed to ensuring that Americans living, working, and travelling in rural areas have access to these mobile broadband networks that are increasingly essential for full participation in today's society and economy.

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Tom Wheeler



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 14, 2016

The Honorable Blaine Luetkemeyer
U.S. House of Representatives
2440 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Luetkemeyer:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of mobile broadband networks to rural Missouri, as well as your views regarding the opportunity that a Mobility Fund Phase II may provide to improve rural mobile coverage.

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WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

October 14, 2016

The Honorable Jason Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
1118 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Smith:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of mobile broadband networks to rural Missouri, as well as your views regarding the opportunity that a Mobility Fund Phase II may provide to improve rural mobile coverage.

Americans rely more and more on mobile broadband service. As providers roll-out more robust wireless networks, they are providing greater broadband speeds, efficiency, capacity, and a wealth of innovative features. The Commission is committed to ensuring that Americans living, working, and travelling in rural areas have access to these mobile broadband networks that are increasingly essential for full participation in today's society and economy.

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